

# Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2006 at 1:00 PM  
and continuing Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 1:00 PM  
(Approved 04-10-2006)

- Item No. 1      Call to order by Judge Louis H. Bruni  
Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Louis H. Bruni	County Judge
Frank Sciaraffa	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Judith Gutierrez	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Jerry Garza	Commissioner, Pct. 3
Cindy Cortez-Brunner	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2006. Present also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.

- Item No. 2      Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

- Item No. 3      Pledge of Allegiance – Led by All

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to move up Item No. 42. Comr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 42      Proclamation for "April as Head Start Month in Webb County"  
presented by Head Start Director.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros, Head Start Director, was present to address the court. She thanked them for their support of this program. She presented Ms. Maricela Bocanegra, Head Start parent and Policy Council President. She stated that April has been designated as Head Start Month and invited the court to take the opportunity to attend one of the many events held throughout the month.

Ms. Maricela Bocanegra thanked the court for allowing her the opportunity to address them. She stated that she represented the Head Start parents and thanked

the court for their continued support of the program. She thanked Cmr. Gutierrez and Cmr. Sciaraffa for taking time to attend the Policy Council Meetings.

The following children and their parents were also recognized for their participation in the Head Start program:

Ethan Bocanegra (Child) – Maricela Bocanegra (Parent - Policy Council President)

Rene Perez (Child) – Sara Perez (Parent - Policy Council Secretary)

Lorena Gomez (Child) – Patricia Ortiz and Manuel Gomez (Parents)

Zinedine Ramirez (Child) – Viviana Ramirez (Parent)

Zulema Peralta (Child) – Basilia Peralta (Parent)

Ms. Rosie Cuellar-Castillo, Policy Council Community Representative, was present to address the court. She stated that this was an exceptional organization that left a positive impact not only on the children but their families and the community. She stated that the program offers parents a sense of belonging and allows them to actively participate in their children's education. She stated that the families band together and support each other. She stated that recently a three year old student was run over by a thirteen year old driver and the families have gotten together to help the family emotionally and financially.

RECESS (1:36 PM to 1:46 PM)

**Item No. 4      Approval of minutes – March 13, 2006**

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 5      Approval of bills, payroll and monthly reports**

Mr. Louie Saucedo, Treasurer's Department, advised the court that the Treasurer's Report ending February 28, 2006 was submitted for their approval.

Judge Bruni motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 6      Communications**

Cmr. Cortez-Brunner advised the public that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mines Road Overpass was this morning. She stated that this project has been needed for some time now and that the expected completion date is March 2008.

**Item No. 7      Public Comment**

Mr. C.Y. Benavides, III, was present to address Item No. 5 and No. 36. He stated that Webb County owns over 11,000 acres that is designated as school lands that are valued at over \$11 million. He stated that he was concerned that Webb County was only distributing the interest earned on this property considering the financial situation that the local school districts are in.

Mr. John Bruce, U.I.S.D. Board President, stated that he had met with Cmr. Gutierrez and Cmr. Garza regarding the use of these funds. He requested that the court audit these accounts so that they can have a clear picture of what these accounts are worth. He requested that the court create a committee composed of the school districts' financial officers and county representatives to manage these funds.

Judge Bruni stated that there were at least six drilling sites on county school lands that did not pay the county for surface damages that would have brought in additional monies for the schools. He stated that if possible, the county should create a department that would manage the school lands and make sure that all fees and damages are paid accordingly.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that it was very important to implement the use of these monies and involve the school districts in the process. She stated that the court needed to explore the possibilities to be able to disburse the monies.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to move up Item No. 36. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 36      Discussion and possible action to authorize and establish the Main and Temporary Branch Early Voting Polling Sites for April 11, 2006 Joint Primary Runoff Elections within Webb County, Texas pursuant to Chapter 85, Texas Elections Code.

Mr. C.Y. Benavides, III, was present to address this item. He stated that as per Mr. Roberto Balli, Democratic Party Chair, the problem with the Primary Election was the electronic tabulation machines. He stated that he was concerned about the use of these machines during the Run-off Elections. He stated that he is a huge proponent of the electronic voting but is asking the court that they pull off the machines for this election.

Judge Bruni stated that his attorneys, Law Office of Campero & Becerra, were investigating what went on during the primary elections and would have the answers by Thursday afternoon.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that the electronic voting machines were the biggest disappointment. She stated that everyone is very concerned with the system and

that no one has any confidence in these machines and questions the county's decision in choosing ES&S. She stated that to date, ES&S has done nothing to dispel the court and the public's concerns.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to move up Item No. 28, No. 29 and No. 30. Comr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 28      Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of the Justice Assistance Grant Application for the amount of TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY EIGHT DOLLARS (\$2, 283,598.00) to the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for the South Texas Anti-Violence Task Force. Grant will pay for salaries, travel and training, equipment, and supplies of the Task Force and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by South Texas Anti-Violence Task Force, Account No. 297-1100-3532 (Cash Match) and 297-1100-3501 (Grant Revenue)]

Comr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 29      Discussion and possible action to adopt a Webb County Resolution to approve the submission of the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application to the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, for the District Attorney's South Texas Anti-Violence Task Force. Grant will pay for salaries, travel and training, equipment, and supplies of the Task Force and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by South Texas Anti-Violence Task Force, Account No. 297-1100-3501 (Grant Revenue)]

Comr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 30      Discussion and possible action authorizing the county auditor to continue paying the salaries, travel, and operating expenses of the, Laredo Multi-Agency Narcotics Task Force which will change name to, The South Texas Anti-Violence Task Force, which will be under a new grant the Justice Assistance Grant Program (federal CFDA-16.738) from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division. This grant will run from April 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 8      Discussion and possible action to hire a Public Information Officer from among respondents to our requests for qualifications, as heretofore solicited, including the designation of office space, setting of salary, and any other matter incident thereto.

Judge Bruni stated that not all applicants were present at today's meeting.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to table Item No. 8. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 9      Discussion and possible action to direct the Webb County Purchasing Agent to solicit Requests for Qualifications for a Human Resources Director, and any other matter incident thereto.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 10      Discussion and possible action to replace County Judge's appointee to the Grievance Committee and appoint Mr. Juan Narvaez.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to table Item No. 10. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 11      Discussion and possible action to review and evaluate current system for appointing private attorneys to civil and criminal cases and corresponding fee schedule.

Judge Bruni questioned the criteria used to appoint certain attorneys as court appointed attorneys, some being paid in excess of \$10,000 and \$16,000. He stated that the different courts have spent very diverse amounts on Court appointed attorneys:

County Court at Law No. 2	\$113,650
County Court at Law No. 1	\$66,150
111 <sup>th</sup> Court	\$--0--
49 <sup>th</sup> Court	\$9,000
341 <sup>st</sup> Court	\$18,000
406 <sup>th</sup> Court	\$6,000

He stated that it was irresponsible for certain judges to misuse these monies and that they seem to be political favors. He stated that the Public Defender's staff should be used instead of appointed private attorneys. He stated that it was not right to play politics with taxpayers' monies. He stated that since none of the judges showed up to discuss this item, no action would be taken.

**Item No. 12      Status report from the Webb County Sheriff regarding current security plan for providing security to all county buildings with possible action**

Judge Bruni stated that he wanted the Sheriff to address this issue. Sheriff Deputy Jerry Arambula and Mr. Martinez were present to address this issue.

Judge Bruni motioned to table Item NO. 12 until Sheriff Flores is able to address the item. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 13      Staff report on the status of Laredo Manor Apartments on services to be dispensed at the Community Center Laredo Manor Apartments with the discussion and possible action to authorize up to 8,000.00 to provide nutritional services to the Laredo Manor Community Center. Funds will be taken from account # 001-2100-03**

Mr. Mike Kazen, CAA Director, was present to address the court. He stated that the most northern Community Center was currently the Buenos Aires Center located at the City Health Department on Cedar. He stated that the Laredo Manor Apartments have already constructed a center that they would be able to use to provide nutritional services to 40 persons already qualified as well as 20 for the Meals on Wheels program. He stated that this is a non-profit organization and they are only asking to be allowed to participate in the nutritional program provided at other Community Centers.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 14      Discussion and possible action to authorize Community Action Agency and Webb County Attorney's office to enter an agreement with the Laredo Manor Apartments to allow CAA office space to provide services, including but not limited to elderly nutrition, utility assistance, weathering, heating, cooling and any other services offered by CAA. And to authorize the county judge to sign all documents or any other matter incident thereto.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 15      Discussion and possible action to approve and appropriate up to \$500,00.00 thousand dollars for the construction of the neighborhood center at Buenos Aires and approving formulation of an interlocal agreement with the City of Laredo to accomplish same. Funds will be taken from precinct # 3 2002-2003 bond series.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 16      Discussion and possible action to change slot # 2288 from receptionist to center coordinator. There will be no impact to the general fund and salary will remain the same.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 17      Discussion and possible action to fill slot # 2287 and slot # 2288 for the Buenos Aires Community Center effective March 28, 2006.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 18 Discussion and possible action to authorize \$ 15,000.00 for a rock wall for Camp Huisache. Funds are to be taken from Precinct 3 Park & Recreation Bond Series 2002-2003. (Co-sponsored with Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa)

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

MEDIA BREAK (2:24 PM to 2:35 PM)

- Item No. 19 Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division to the State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund (State) and authorization to designate the Webb County Judge as the grantee's authorized official to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency. This grant does not require cash match.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to move up Item No. 46. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 46 Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to purchase the following equipment through the Department of Information Resources state contracts for the Sheriff's Department GIS initiative project; Grant Number SF-06-A10-17771-01:  
Equipment: 303-2202-8410

Qty.	Description	Vendor/DIR#	Amount
1	Gateway 9510 SATA (Server)	Gateway DIR-SDD-220	\$ 6,821.45
1	ESRI Software Floating License	ESRI DIR2002MPA-4409	\$11,342.97
1	HP 815mfp color plotter & Cartridges	Val.Com DIR-VPC-03-007	\$17,964.00
		Sub-total	\$36,128.42



<u>GIS Mapping Materials; 303-2202-6223</u>			Balance: \$17,577.00
Qty.	Description	Vendor/DIR#	Amount
5	HP Compaq Notebook	HP	\$11,495.00
		DIR-VPC-03-006	
1	HP vp6300 Projector & Case	HP	\$ 1,377.00
		DIR-VPC-03-007	
1	Pocket Jet 3plus printer & Latitude	Dell	\$ 2,004.64
		D610	
		Sub-total	\$14,876.64
<u>Supplies 303-2202-6001</u>			Balance: \$ 4,349.00
1	Dell Latitude D610	Dell	
	Car Kit Ford 150		\$ 2,652.90
		Grand Total	\$53,657.96

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. J.J. Gonzalez, Sheriff Comptroller, requested that the last item, under Supplies 303-2202-6001 be deleted.

Cmr. Sciaraffa amended his motion to delete the items under Supplies 303-2202-6001. Cmr. Gutierrez amended her second.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 20 Discussion and possible action to ratify the interlocal agreement with the City of Laredo as Administrator for the Regional Planning Commission for an eighteen month period beginning September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2007, for the provision of 9-1-1 service and public safety answering point equipment, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 21 Discussion and possible action to enter into an Equipment Maintenance Agreement with Office Communications Systems, Inc. for one (1) Toshiba e281c Digital Copier for the Risk Management Office for a three (3) year period (March 27, 2006 through March 26, 2009) with copy overages invoiced at \$0.0085 per black and white print copy and \$0.0850 per color copy and authorizing the County Judge to sign all

relevant documents. [Requested by Risk Management, Account No. 001-0105-6402 (Repairs and Maintenance)]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 22 Discussion and possible action to enter into an Equipment Lease Agreement with Office Communications Systems, Inc. for one (1) Toshiba e281c Copier to be located at Risk Management Office for a thirty-six month period (March 27, 2006 through March 26, 2009) in the amount of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$166.00) per month and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Risk Management Acct. No. 001-0105-6014 (Equipment Rental)].

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 23 Discussion and possible action to enter into an Equipment Maintenance Agreement with Office Communications Systems, Inc. for one (1) Toshiba ES 352 Digital Copier for the Juvenile Department for a one (1) year period (March 27, 2006 through March 26, 2007) with copy overages invoiced at \$0.079 per black and white print copy and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Juvenile Department, Account No. 001-1301-6402 (Repairs and Maintenance)]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 24 Discussion and possible action to enter into an Letter of Agreement between Webb County for the Community Action Agency and Reliant Energy Retail Services, LLC CARE for the "Reliant Energy Retail Services, LLC CARE Program" whereby Reliant Energy will provide EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$8000.00) funding to Webb County Community Action Agency to be utilized to help the

needy pay home energy expenses for a term beginning March 27, 2006 and ending on December 31, 2006 and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Community Action Agency, Acct. No. 902-4202-7004]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 25      Discussion and possible action to accept 2 rights of way, out of Ranchitos Los Centenarios Subdivision, one (1) right of way out of D-5 Acres Subdivision, and one (1) right of way out of San Carlos Phase II Subdivision and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 26      Discussion and possible action to enter into a two (2) year subscriber agreement with Habla-Tex to provide Nextel Communication Services for two Nextel walkie-talkie phones. The cost of the two (2) Nextel walkie-talkie phones is TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE DOLLARS AND NINETYSIX CENTS (\$229.96) with a monthly communication air-time service fee for the phone of EIGHTY-THREE DOLLARS AND NINETY-SEVEN CENTS (\$83.97) for a total cost of TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND FORTYFIVE DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FOUR CENTS (\$2,245.24) over the term of the agreement, and authorizing the county judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Facilities Department, Account No. 001-0109-6004-1 (Telephone/Maintenance)]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 27      Discussion and possible action to enter into a State of Texas Rental Contract with Xerox Copy Connection for one (1) WC15PL w/ ADF Copier to be located at the Head Start Office on a month to month

basis in the amount of FIFTYSIX DOLLARS AND FORTY-ONE CENTS (\$56.41) per month and ONE CENT per copy and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Head Start Acct. No. 903-4208-6014 (Equipment Rental)].

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 31      Discussion and possible action to enter into a grant agreement between the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Department of Transportation and Webb County Community Action Agency for \$240,596.00 in federal funds to be used in the operation of the El Aguila Rural Public Transportation Program.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 32      Discussion and possible action to submit an application to the City of Laredo for third party funding for the Elderly Nutrition Program in the amount of \$50,000.00, for FY-2006-2007.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 33      Discussion and possible action of approval to grant the County Auditor authority to expend funds from the Weatherization Program effective March 31, 2005, pending the receipt of all required documents for the new program year.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 34      Discussion and possible action to submit an application to the City of Laredo for third party funding for the Meals On Wheels program, in the amount of \$50,000.00 for FY-2006-2007.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 35      Discussion and possible action to proclaim April 2006 as Fair Housing Month and April 17th – 21st as Fair Housing Week and designating the Webb County Community Action Agency responsible for monitoring Fair Housing in Webb County.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 37      Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing the Conveyance of the Old Wastewater Treatment Plant Site known as Tract I as described on Park Deed dated February 15, 2002, in which Webb County granted the surface only to the City of El Cenizo.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 38      Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing the Purchasing Agent and the County Engineer to advertise for bids the removal of the 150,000 gallon per day (gpd) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the demolition of the El Cenizo WWTP.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 39      Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing the County Engineer and the Road & Bridge Superintendent to install storm drainage culverts at the west end of Cadena Street in El Cenizo as per the plans and specifications prepared by Gonzalez Engineering for the TXDOT Border Colonias Access Program – El Cenizo Paving Project.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 40      Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing the County Engineer and the Road & Bridge Superintendent to grade and install a drainage swale on Tracts I & II as described on Park Deed dated February 15, 2002, in which Webb County granted the surface only to the City of El Cenizo.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 41      Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing Final Payment and Retainage in the amount of \$5,491.80 to Dannenbaum Engineers for the inspection of six construction projects of the Texas Water Development Board water and sewer improvements at El Cenizo and Rio Bravo. This is subject to the Texas Water Development Board's approval.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 43      Discussion and possible action to fill slot #1891, (Front Desk Coordinator) from within the County starting at \$8.25 and up to \$ 9.47 per hour depending on experience effective March 27, 2006.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 44      Discussion and Possible Action to approve the following changes for the Webb County Indigent Services Dep. eff. March 27, 2006. Both salary increases are within each slot budgeted amount. Salary increase for Slot #1292 (Eligibility Worker IV) from \$12.60 to \$13.66 and for Slot #0596 (Screener 1) from \$14.70 to \$14.90

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 45 Discussion and possible action to approve the following changes for personnel of the Webb County Public Defender's Office effective March 27, 2006. The funds will be taken from year to date savings in the personnel budget and the 05'-06' budget remains unchanged. [Co-sponsored by the Honorable Frank Sciaraffa, Commissioners Pct. 1 and the Honorable Judith G. Gutierrez, Commissioner Pct. 2]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 47 Discussion and possible action to award the disposition of one (1) locomotive to the highest bidder, Hugo Chavarria Rodriguez in the amount of \$2,200.00 from CABCO Auctioneering Services Inc.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 48 Discussion and possible action to approve the lease purchase of one (1) digital copier in the amount of \$184.07 monthly for 36 months from XEROX Corporation for the CAA-El Aguila Transportation. 001-6002-6403

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 49 Discussion and possible action to award the following bids for the CAA Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP):

Bid No.	Description	Recommended Vendor
· Bid No. 2006-11	Water Heaters	Lowes Home Center, Inc.
· Bid No. 2006-12	Refrigerators	Lowes Home Center, Inc.
· Bid No. 2006-13	Space Heaters	Lowes Home Center, Inc.
· Bid No. 2006-14	Window A/C Units	Lowes Home Center, Inc.
· Bid No. 2006-15	Heat Pumps	No Bids / Will re-bid
· Bid No. 2006-16	Evaporative Cooler	Lowes Home Center, Inc.

· Bid No. 2006-17	Central Heating/Cooling Units	AA Builders
· Bid No. 2006-18	Water Heater Shed	AA Builders

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, made the recommendations shown above to the court.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to award the contracts to the vendors recommended by the Purchasing Agent. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 50      Discussion and possible action to approve an award proposal P-2006-13 Engineering service for the Rail District Master Plan and Other Improvements.**

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, stated that only one proposal was received from Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc. He recommended that the contract be awarded to them.

Cmr. Garza motioned to award the contract to the vendor recommended by the Purchasing Agent. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 51      Discussion and possible action to approve an award proposal P-2006-08 Youth Village Project, New Juvenile Center.**

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, stated that proposals were received from three vendors: Leyendecker Construction, Don Krueger Construction and Marshall Company. He recommended Leyendecker Construction.

Cmr. Garza motioned to award the contract to the vendor recommended by the Purchasing Agent. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 52      Discussion and possible action to approve Change Order No. 1 Improvements to Judge Vasquez Office, Justice Center 3rd floor from Zertuche Construction in the amount of \$2,400.00 (001-0105-6032-04)**

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.



Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to move into Executive Session. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (2:53 PM to 4:39 PM)

Judge Bruni reconvened the meeting and stated that no action was taken while in Executive Session.

- Item No. 53      Discussion and possible action regarding Civil Action No. L-05-CV-0076; Luis Montes vs. Webb County, Texas and Cynthia Mares; In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)].

Mr. Nathan Bratton, Assistant County Attorney, requested that the court allow counsel to move forward with the mediation.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to allow counsel to move forward with mediation. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 54      Discussion and possible action regarding Civil Action No. L-04-CV170; Jesus Eligio "Chuy" Cantu vs. Webb County, Texas and Webb County Commissioners Court; In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)].

Mr. Nathan Bratton, Assistant County Attorney, asked the court for authorization to pursue the case as per discussions in Executive Session.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to authorize the County Attorney to pursue the case as per discussions in Executive Session. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 55      Discussion and possible action regarding re-employment, termination of employment, and/or employee grievance of former Facilities Department employee, Fernando Gonzalez, Jr. [Executive Session is

requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).]

Mr. Nathan Bratton, Assistant County Attorney, stated that this item was for status only and no action was necessary.

Addendum  
Item No. 1

Discussion and possible action to renew or terminate leasehold with USDA Farm Service Agency of Webb County or Webb County property located on Saunders Avenue with direction to county staff to negotiate the same, if necessary, and any other matters incident thereto.

Ms. Irma Rodriguez, USDA Executive Director, was present to address the court. She stated that her office has occupied a space at the County's Agricultural Center for the last ten years. She stated that their lease expired in March 2005 and an item was placed on the agenda in March 2005 to renew the lease. She stated that the item was tabled in an effort to renegotiate the lease terms. She stated that she has sent letters to Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, Mr. Nathan Bratton, Assistant County Attorney, and Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Executive Administrator, as well as copies of these memos to Judge Bruni and his staff but that this issue has not been resolved. She stated that they currently pay \$9 per square foot for a total of \$1,537.50 per month which includes all utilities and maintenance. She stated that they are currently on a month to month basis but that this is the last month that the government will pay without a lease agreement in place. She stated that her office was willing to renegotiate the lease terms to possibly increase the rate as well as include the costs for restructuring one part of the office space to create an open space.

Comr. Sciaraffa motioned to renegotiate the terms of the lease and renew the lease for one year. Comr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Comr. Sciaraffa amended his motion to renegotiate a higher lease for a five year term. Comr. Gutierrez amended her second.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 56      Adjournment

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Comr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.